

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Grimma

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 6 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE 25X1X

1. Between 7 and 14 September, the Strasburg Kaserne in Grimma was occupied by a rear unit of about 300 to 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with artillery insignia and some with tank insignia. Tanks were no longer noticed after 28 August. No training activity was observed.

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2. Between 7 and 14 September, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by about 300 signal troops, 200 engineer troops and about 100 troops wearing motor transport insignia. The engineer troops did not practice on the Mulde River during the period under review. A colonel who wore black-bordered golden epaulets without insignia went from the officers' billets to the engineers' quarters in the northern section of the installation.

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25X1C The komendatura on Stalin Strasse was occupied by between 12 or 15 officers and 20 to 30 EM wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets.

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3. At about 11 a.m. on 13 September, between 60 and 80 officers and about 100 EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets were at the tank memorial near the railroad station. The officers included 1 major general, 2 colonels with red-bordered golden epaulets, 2 lieutenant colonels with red-bordered golden epaulets without insignia, 1 lieutenant colonel with red-bordered golden epaulets with tank insignia, 1 lieutenant colonel with black-bordered golden epaulets with signal insignia, 1 lieutenant colonel wearing black-bordered golden epaulets without insignia and about 20 field grade officers, mostly majors. The others were lieutenants and captains. At 11:30 a.m., 32 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets, including some with signal insignia, marched to the club. They were followed by the officers, except those who belonged to the komendatura.

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25X1C At 1:30 p.m., most of the field grade officers went to the Elsner Kaserne and Nagema on Franz Mehring Strasse.

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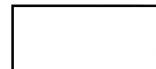
A band of about 20 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets marched toward the installation.

4. On 1 September, personnel as well as officers were permitted to leave quarters to frequent German restaurants and contact German families. The officers and EM who were allowed to buy alcoholic beverages were not permitted, however, to carry

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weapons when off duty. The number of patrols in town and restaurants was substantially increased. EW had curfew at 11 p.m.

5. From 1 to 11 September, the Strasburg Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 1,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. At 11 a.m. on 1 September, 6 groups, of 20 to 30 soldiers each were engaged in drill without weapons. On 5 September, the barracks buildings were fully lighted at dusk. At 3 p.m. on 7 September, about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were served at the two mess buildings.

6. From 1 to 11 September, the Elsner Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, 300 troops wearing motor transport insignia, 200 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia and 100 uniformed women. All windows of the quarters were lighted at dusk on 5 September. At 3:10 p.m. on 7 September, 600 to 700 troops were served meals.

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9. At 9 a.m. on 8 September, 14 officers and about 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia performed aiming practice with 12 x 120-mm mortars at the Nagema training grounds. Source learned that, at 10 a.m. on 22 August, an officers' conference had been attended by about 250 officers who belonged to tank, artillery, signal and engineer units and included some from other posts.¹

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